

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 35-38, 40, 41, 50-54 and 58-62 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 42, 43, 46-48 and 55, and add Claims 63-65 as follows.

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A print system, in which an image supply device and a printing device directly communicate with each other via a communication interface, for transmitting image data to the ~~recording~~ printing device from the image supply device and printing the image data, the print system comprising:

a communication ~~means for establishing~~ unit configured to establish a communication procedure between the image supply device and the printing device;

an assignment unit configured to acquire function information via said communication unit, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller as the operation controller of the print system by comparing a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device;

~~assignment means for, after the establishment of the communication procedure, assigning at least an operation controller for controlling a of the print system; and~~

a print control ~~means for transmitting/receiving~~ unit configured to transmit/receive image data and a communication command between the image supply device and the

printing device based on an assignment assigned by said assignment ~~means~~ unit, and  
~~performing~~ perform a print operation by using the printing device based on the image data  
supplied from the image supply device,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by said  
assignment ~~means~~ unit.

43. (Currently Amended) A control method of a print system, in which an image  
supply device and a printing device directly communicate with each other via a  
communication interface, for transmitting image data to the ~~recording~~ printing device from  
the image supply device and printing the image data, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication procedure between the image supply device and the  
printing device;

acquiring function information using the communication procedure, the function  
information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a  
user interface;

~~after the establishment of the communication procedure, assigning at least an  
operation controller for controlling a user interface of the print system~~ assigning an  
operation controller as the operation controller of the print system by comparing the  
supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting  
level of an operation controller of the printing device; and

transmitting/receiving image data and a communication command between the  
image supply device and the printing device based on an assignment assigned in said

assigning step, and performing a print operation by using the printing device based on the image data supplied from the image supply device,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned in said assigning step.

44. (Previously Presented) A control method according to claim 43, wherein the communication interface sets that the printing device is host and the image supply device is slave and said assigning step is implemented by the printing device.

45. (Previously Presented) A control method according to claim 43, wherein the image supply device and the printing device can communicate using a plurality of communication methods, and the image supply device or the printing device has a dedicated protocol for each of the plurality of communication methods.

46. (Currently Amended) A control method according to claim 45, wherein in said ~~assigning~~ acquiring step, ~~an assignment of functions to the image supply device and the printing device differs in accordance with the communication method between the image supply device and the printing device~~ supporting levels of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, a storage controller for controlling a storage unit that stores an image file and a print controller for controlling a print operation are acquired, and in said assigning step, the supporting levels of the image supply device and the printing device are compared, and each of the operation controller for controlling the user interface, the

storage controller and the print controller is assigned to either the image supply device or the printing device based on a comparison result.

47. (Currently Amended) A printing device for directly communicating with an image supply device via a communication interface and for receiving image data from the image supply device to print the image data, the printing device comprising:

a communication means for establishing unit configured to establish a  
communication procedure with the image supply device;

an assignment unit configured to acquire function information of the image supply device via said communication unit, the function information including at least supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, and to assign an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by comparing the supporting level of the operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device;

~~assignment means for, after the establishment of the communication procedure, assigning at least an operation controller for controlling a user interface of the printing device; and~~

a print control means for receiving unit configured to receive the image data from the image supply device and printing print the image data based on an assignment assigned by said assignment means unit,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by said assignment means unit.

48. (Currently Amended) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein said assignment means ~~receives function information describing functions of the image supply device after the establishment of the communication procedure, and assigns functions based on the received function information~~ acquires a supporting level of an operation controller for controlling a user interface, a storage controller for controlling a storage unit that stores an image file and a print controller for controlling a print operation, and compares the supporting levels of the image supply device and the printing device and assigns each of the operation controller for controlling a user interface, the storage controller and the print controller to either the image supply device or the printing device based on a comparison result.

49. (Previously Presented) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein the printing device can communicate using a plurality of communication methods, and an assignment of functions to the image supply device and the printing device differs in accordance with the communication method with the image supply device.

50-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) A control method of a printing device for directly communicating with an image supply device via a communication interface and for receiving image data from the image supply device to print the image data, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication procedure with the image supply device;

acquiring function information using the communication procedure, the function information including at least a supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device;

assigning an operation controller to either the image supply device or the printing device by comparing the supporting level of an operation controller of the image supply device with a supporting level of an operation controller of the printing device;

~~after the establishment of the communication procedure, assigning at least an operation controller for controlling a user interface of the printing device; and~~

receiving the image data from the image supply device and printing the image data based on an assignment assigned in said assigning step,

wherein the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned in said assigning step.

56. (Previously Presented) A control method according to claim 55, wherein in said assigning step, function information describing functions of the image supply device is received after the establishment of the communication procedure, and functions are assigned based on the received function information.

57. (Previously Presented) A control method according to claim 55, wherein the printing device can communicate using a plurality of communication methods, and an assignment of functions to the image supply device and the printing device in said

assigning step differs in accordance with the communication method with the image supply device.

58-62. (Canceled)

63. (New) A printing system according to claim 42, wherein the supporting level includes at least a level not supporting an operation controller or a level for asserting the use of an operation controller of the image supply device or the printing device.

64. (New) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein the supporting level includes at least a level not supporting an operation controller or a level for asserting the use of an operation controller of the image supply device or the printing device.

65. (New) A printing device according to claim 47, wherein the supporting level includes at least a level not supporting an operation controller or a level for asserting the use of an operation controller of the image supply device or the printing device, and if said assignment unit cannot acquire a supporting level of the operation controller of the image supply device, then said assignment unit assigns an operation controller of the printing device as an operation controller of the image supply device.